

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 8, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. IVERSON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany bill S. 431.]

*The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of C. L. West and others, have considered the same, and report:*

The memorialists were employed by the government as draughtsmen during the years 1852, 1853, and 1854. On the 31st of August, 1852, an appropriation act was passed, which provides "that the clerks, messengers, watchmen, and laborers, employed at an annual salary, or in temporary positions, in the executive and legislative departments of the government, in the city of Washington, whose annual compensation does not exceed \$1,200, shall, in addition thereto, be allowed an increased compensation of twenty per cent." The memorialists, together with a number of other public employes, were by the decision of the Comptroller of the Treasury excluded from the benefits of this act. On the 22d of April, 1854, another act was passed, section 2 of which provides, "that an addition of twenty per cent. is hereby added to the pay now authorized by law to each of the messengers, packers, laborers, and watchmen of the different executive departments of the government in Washington; to the clerks employed at the navy-yard and marine barracks at Washington; to the clerk, messenger, and laborer in the office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, doorkeeper and assistant doorkeeper at the Executive Mansion, public gardener, laborers employed in the public grounds and President's garden, two additional watchmen and the police at the Capitol, watchmen employed at the President's House and reservationn umber two, lamp-lighter, the general superintendent, and the draw-keepers of the bridges across the Eastern Branch and Potomac; and that the provisions of the second section of the act of August 31, 1852, 'making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the government for the year ending the 30th of June, 1853,' &c., be, and is hereby, extended to such persons herein enumerated, who were in employment

during the fiscal year, and were excluded from the benefit of said act by the decision of the Comptroller of the Treasury." The object of these acts appears to have been to increase, to the extent of twenty per cent., the pay of all the public employés in Washington city, whose salary did not exceed \$1,600 per annum. This construction would have included the memorialists, and entitled them to the benefits of the acts. Adopting this view, your committee report the accompanying bill, and recommend its passage.